



A RACE RIOT pits whites against blacks in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 24, 1866. The sketch, made on the scene by a *Harper's* artist, shows an officer's futile effort to halt the melee.

## Out of the violence the promise of a new start

SIX years separate the scenes above and at right. They had been turbulent years, made so by the reaction of Southerners to what an Alabama editor called "the galling despotism that broods like a nightmare over these Southern States." In 1865 returning Rebels found themselves clerking in stores that served former slaves or cleaning and re-laying bricks from charred rubble. Many resented their new jobs as degrading, but others were taking to heart the words of Charles Henry Smith's fictional character Bill Arp, whose humor had brightened the war's darkness: "Well, I killed as many of them as they did of me, and now I'm going to work." By the 1870s resurgent whites were recovering their power, and Negroes lost the support they needed to stay in office. As Democrats regained one legislature after another and clamped down on the blacks' freedom, the South began to assume the aspect it would wear for another century.

THE BUSTLE OF RECOVERY pervades Charleston in this 1872 painting. The city was regaining its prewar look—except for the presence of the Northern officer at right.







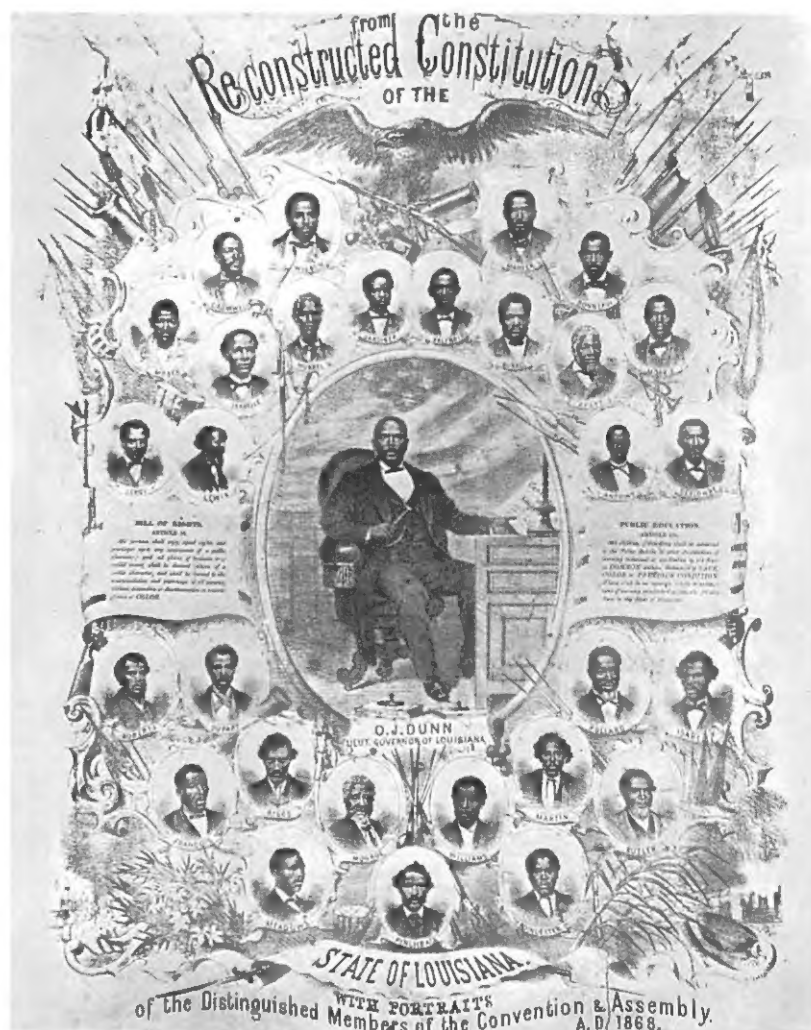
Republican. Before the execution could take place, federal agents appeared, dispersed the Klansmen and rescued Campbell.

Carolina meets in 1876, near Reconstruction's end.



## Background for strife: Negroes in office

WITH many Southern whites disfranchised, blacks soon sat in every Southern legislature (although they held a majority of seats only in one state). But they had no fund of experience or education—under the old slave codes it was illegal for Negroes even to be taught to read or write. The black lawmakers often struggled in vain simply to cope with parliamentary procedure. Many white Southerners fiercely resented seeing ex-slaves in positions of power. The Ku Klux Klan was one response. By threats and violence, Klansmen frightened blacks from the polls. By 1877 Southern whites had returned to power throughout the old Confederacy.



BLACK POLITICIANS dominate a photo of Louisiana legislators. Pinckney Pinchback (bottom, center) later was acting governor, the highest state post held by a Negro in the postwar South.